

How to Report

If you believe you have been inappropriately solicited online or find yourself in a situation that makes you uncomfortable, you should report it! There are different ways you can do this:

- Tell your parent or parents
- Tell a trusted adult. This could be a friend, a teacher, a scout leader, a leader in your community, a coach, a member of law enforcement or a religious leader
- Tell one of the Advocates or volunteers giving the Attorney General's CyberSafety presentation at your school
- Report the incident at the Attorney General's anonymous tip line found at www.SafeFlorida.net/SafeSurf or www.cybertipline.com
- Call 1.800.the.lost

How to Tell if One of Your Friends is in Cyber Danger

Is one of your friends acting differently lately? Do you suspect something is wrong? It could be that someone they have met online is "grooming" them and they don't realize what is happening. Here are some of the things you should look out for:

- Does your friend spend an unusual amount of time online chatting?
- Has your friend stopped hanging out with you after school and on weekends?
- Does your friend get anxious or upset if he or she is not able to get to a computer to chat or check e-mail?
- Have you noticed a change in your friend's personality?
- Is your friend isolating him or herself from their friends and family?
- Does your friend have a sudden influx of cash?
- Is your friend getting gifts through the mail?
- Is your friend exhausted because of being online all night?
- Does your friend use a pre-paid phone card to make calls to that "special someone"?
- Is your friend too attached to the cell phone or afraid to miss a call?
- Ask the same questions of yourself. Are you getting groomed?

Contact Us

Office of the Attorney General
Child Predator CyberCrime Unit
904.348.2720

Safe Surfing

**Tips to keep you
and your friends safe online**

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Attorney General
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Social Networking Sites

Do you have a MySpace or Facebook page? These popular social networking sites are fun and creative ways to communicate with friends, share ideas and express yourself. However, it's important to keep in mind that anything you post, including personal information and pictures, could remain on the internet forever for anyone to see.

Do you want everyone to know your information? Where you live? Work? Go to school? Hang out? What if it wasn't a kid looking at your site but a predator pretending to be a kid? Because you cannot see or hear the people you are talking to online, it's easy for people to disguise themselves.

Many people think only their friends can see their information, but on social networking sites your "friends" are often people you've never really met. How many friends do you have on your site? More importantly, how many of your "friends" on your social networking site do you know in real life? Remember, colleges, universities and employers often search social networking sites to find out about their prospective candidates. Does your information reflect the real you?

When posting information, think before you post!

Online Lures/Grooming

When communicating with someone you do not know in real life, you should be cautious of some common tactics used by online predators to win your trust and create a false sense of security. The following are examples of what is called "grooming." Does the person you're chatting with:

- Make you feel "special"?
- Give you excessive compliments?
- Make promises of gifts and/or money?
- Make you believe that they understand you like no one else does?
- Say you are the only one for them – that no one else matters?
- Offer you "real love" or say you are their "soul mate"?
- Seem to have everything in common with you?
- Make you feel bad if you're not available to chat?

When someone you do not know in real life uses any of these methods to tempt you to do something inappropriate, you are being "groomed." By creating a false sense of trust, the predator breaks down your suspicions and defenses. If someone says he is 13 or even 17 years old, how do you know he isn't really 45 or 50 and just pretending to be a teen?

www.safeflorida.net/safesurf

The Florida Attorney General has developed a website just for you:

www.safeflorida.net/safesurf

This site provides valuable information about staying safe while surfing the Internet. The teen SafeSurf page offers tips about safeguarding personal information and avoiding dangerous situations. It also has a link to the CyberCrime Unit's MySpace page and stories from teenagers who were victimized on the Internet. Be sure to add our CyberCrime Unit's law enforcement section, and by linking yourself to law enforcement, you can be on our friends list.

www.myspace.com/florida_cpcu